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SOURCE Rizhskoye Vzmor'ye, Latgosizdat,

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THE RIGA SEASHORE

The Riga Seashore is a coastal strip 0.3-3 kilometers wide and 18 kilometers long between the southern shore of the Gulf of Riga and the Lielupe River. The entire strip lies 3.5-4 meters above sea level. A series of pine-covered sand dunes stretches along the shore. The highest dune (17 meters) rises north of Bullyetsiem, the second highest (12 meters) is located in Asari in the vicinity of Dzintenes and Birzes streets. From the dunes, it is possible to obtain broad views of the Gulf of Riga and the beach.

The difference between high tide and low tide is not great in the Gulf of Riga. The maximum variation in the level of the water is 1.6 meters. The sea bottom drops gradually and is covered with fine white sand.

A beach up to 150 meters wide stretches along the entire length of the resort on the Gulf of Riga side. It is covered with clear white sea sand.

Due to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream, air and water temperatures are considerably higher than the average for this latitude. Average air temperature at the Riga Seashore is 6.2 degrees centigrade. During July and August, the warmest months, it rises to 18-24 degrees; in February, the coldest month, it falls to 4.8 degrees below zero. The water is also warmest in July and August, when its temperature rises to 17-24 degrees. The bathing season usually lasts from early June until early September.

The sea water contains 0.5-0.7 percent salts. The salts are 77 percent sodium chloride, 9.3 percent magnesium chloride, 5.3 percent magnesium sulfate, 5.3 percent calcium sulfate, 2.7 percent potassium chloride, and 0.4 percent others.

The Riga Seashore is occupied by a number of summer-house settlements: Lielupe (18.5 kilometers from Riga), Bulduri (20), Avoty (21.5), Dzintari (22), Mayori (23.5), Dubulty (25), Yaundubulty (26.5), Pumpuri (27.5), Melluzhi (29), Asari (30.5), and Vayvari (31.5 kilometers from Riga).

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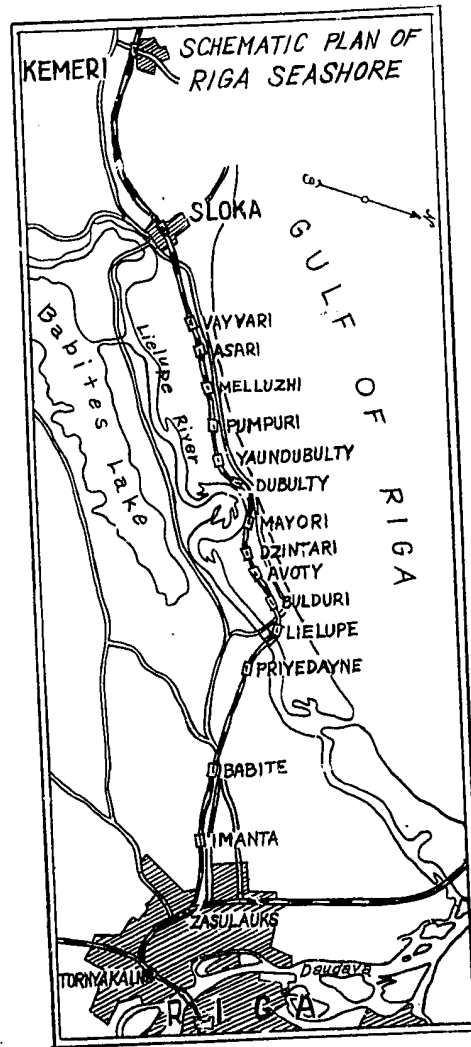
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The Lielupe River, which borders the Riga Seashore on the south, is 119 kilometers long and averages 260 meters in width in this area. Babites Lake, covering 15,000 hectares, is south of the Lielupe. It is a water-fowl preserve.

The following map shows the seashore in relation to the city of Riga.



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